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41ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**AB 262: Defibrillator Training
Testimony by State Representative Joan Ballweg
Before the Assembly Committee on Homeland Security
and State Preparedness
May 15, 2007**

Under current law there are specific occupations that are statutorily required to take cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The Department of Health & Family Services also requires individuals who work in certain programs licensed or regulated by the Department to complete a first aid course including CPR. Many of these individuals already receive training in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) because, generally AED training is not conducted as a separate course, but as part of the CPR certification.

Nationally, 250,000 people die of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) each year, and by having AEDs available and people trained on how to use them, as many as 50,000 of those individuals might be saved. There are four key points that enhance a victims chance of survival: Early recognition and access; early CPR; early defibrillation; and early advanced medical care. While Southeastern and Southcentral Wisconsin may be growing more and

more urbanized, the fact remains that much of Wisconsin is a rural landscape, and advance medical care is not always in close proximity. CPR and defibrillation combined together increase a victim's odds of surviving until medical personnel can arrive and transport the individual to a health care facility.

Even though the AED is automated, prior training helps the rescuer identify the signs of SCA and react. The decision to give assistance is very time sensitive, for every minute defibrillation is delayed, a victim's chance of survival decreases 10 percent.

CPR alone is usually not enough to save the life of a SCA victim. After a shock from an AED eliminates the irregular heartbeat, most hearts do not pump blood effectively for a few minutes after the shock. Chest compressions (part of the CPR process) are needed to during this time to provide blood to the heart, brain and other organs. So, the combination of these two life saving techniques enhance a victim's chance of survival.

I hope you will support AB 262, and I would be happy to answer any questions now.



AED LIFESAVING ACT OF 2007

TALKING POINTS –AB 262

ISSUE

Last session, in order to expand liability protections to those who administer automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in cases of emergency, the training requirements were removed from the state law. The American Red Cross supported the changes in cases of Good Samaritan protections and to encourage lay persons to assist in times of heart emergencies.

POSITION

The American Red Cross believes that there are certain occupations, those required to obtain CPR training and certification, which the public holds to a higher expectations of care.

AB-262

This bill relates to requirements on successfully completing training on use of an automated external defibrillator, extends the time limit for emergency rule procedures, and provides an exemption from emergency rule procedures.

This bill requires certain persons to successfully complete a course on the use of automated external defibrillators. The bill requires chiropractors, dental hygienists, dentists, licensed midwives, athletic trainers, and massage therapists and bodyworkers to demonstrate current proficiency in the use of an automated external defibrillator in order to obtain licensure or certification and, with the exception of massage therapists and bodyworkers, the renewal of a license or certificate. This bill also requires the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) to approve individuals, organizations, and institutions of higher education to provide the course.

TALKING POINTS

- Training is necessary in order to understand the role of defibrillation in the broader context of the cardiac chain of survival. Training in CPR and AED skills will enable the rescuer to use all the steps in the cardiac chain of survival, thereby significantly increasing the victim's chance of survival.
- AEDs are used most effectively by those who are properly trained. Training also minimizes response anxiety.
- Training not only covers the skill of using an AED, but also teaches other AED precautions and special situations a responder must be aware of such as using an AED in a moving vehicle, in and around wet environments, and with other implantable devices.

Supported changes in laws to encourage lay persons to assist in emergencies

Certain occupations are held to a higher expectation of care

AB-262 requires certain individuals to be trained on the use of AEDs

Training increases knowledge and effective use of AEDs

AED LIFESAVING ACT OF 2007

TALKING POINTS

TALKING POINTS (CONT.)

- CPR on its own is seldom enough to save lives; victims of cardiac arrest need immediate care from an AED. CPR provides a small but vital amount of oxygen-rich blood flow to the heart and brain, and it increases the chances that an AED shock will allow the heart to start working effectively.
- By using all four-steps in the Cardiac Chain of Survival, the victim's chance of survival is at its greatest.
 - 1) Early recognition and early access: The sooner someone calls 911 or the local emergency number, the sooner early advanced medical care arrives.
 - 2) Early CPR: Early CPR helps circulate blood that contains oxygen to the vital organs until an AED is ready to use.
 - 3) Early defibrillation: Each minute that defibrillation is delayed reduces the change of survival by about 10 percent.
 - 4) Early advanced medical care: Trained medical personnel such as emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics provide further care and transport to hospital facilities.
- Even though a person is not breathing and shows no other signs of life, the cells of the brain and of other important organs continue to live for a short time – until all the oxygen in the blood is used. Such a person needs immediate CPR and defibrillation.
- CPR is a combination of chest compressions and rescue breathing – which circulate the blood containing oxygen through the body. Defibrillation is a process of delivering an electrical shock that disrupts a heart's electrical activity long enough to allow the heart to develop an effective rhythm on its own.
- CPR increases a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival by keeping the brain and other vital organs supplied with oxygen until the person can receive defibrillation and advanced medical care.
- Following is a more scientific explanation of why it is important to conduct CPR in conjunction with using an AED:

After a shock from an AED eliminates Ventricular Fibrillation (VF), most hearts do not pump blood effectively for a few minutes after the shock. Chest compressions (CPR) are needed during this time to provide blood flow to the heart, brain and other organs. If VF does remain after one shock from an AED, chest compressions will deliver oxygen to the heart. This will make the VF more likely to be eliminated by the next shock.

CPR on its own is
seldom enough
to save lives

AEDs allow for
early
defibrillation, part
of the Cardiac
Chain of Survival

CPR circulates
blood containing
oxygen through
the body

+

Defibrillation
allows the heart
to develop an
effective rhythm



CPR and
defibrillation work
together to
increase a
cardiac arrest
victim's chances
of survival